



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Atomic City, ID	Accident Number:	WPR09CA225
Date & Time:	05/01/2009, 1330 MDT	Registration:	N4272M
Aircraft:	RANS S-7	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot/owner and a pilot rated passenger flew to a local airport for a brief stop, and then continued to another nearby airport where the passenger performed a touch-and-go. He had begun a slight right turn during the climbout from the touch-and-go when the engine lost power about 250 feet above ground level (agl). The owner took control, turned back to the left, and tried to land on the end of the runway. He leveled off slightly about 20 feet agl, and then flared for landing. The airplane landed hard on the north side of the runway and the right wheel broke off. The landing gear dug into the turf, the airplane spun 180 degrees, and the right main landing gear collapsed. The airframe around the tailwheel and rudder sustained substantial damage. The owner indicated that the airplane had a header tank that was the only fuel supply for the engine in addition to the wing tanks that were used to supply the header tank. He used an electric fuel pump to manually transfer fuel from the wing tanks to the header tank. He stated that he usually did not let the header tank get less than half full since the fuel pick-up port for the engine driven pump is at the front of the tank. He said that he probably let the fuel level get too low on this flight. During the climbout with the nose up, he surmised that the header tank fuel pick-up unported, resulting in the loss of power.

Flight Events

Initial climb - Fuel starvation
Initial climb - Loss of engine power (total)
Emergency descent - Off-field or emergency landing

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
A loss of engine power due to fuel starvation as a result of the pilot's inadequate fuel management.

Findings

Aircraft-Fluids/misc hardware-Fluids-Fuel-Fluid management - C
Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Landing flare-Incorrect use/operation
Personnel issues-Task performance-Planning/preparation-Fuel planning-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Sport Pilot	Age:	68
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	2900 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2593 hours (Total, this make and model), 2900 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 14 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Co-Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	53
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	760 hours (Total, all aircraft), 400 hours (Total, this make and model), 700 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	RANS	Registration:	N4272M
Model/Series:	S-7	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Errol Spaulding	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	912
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KPIH, 4452 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 5000 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots, 320°
Temperature:	12°C / -1°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Atomic City, ID (U46)	Destination:	Atomic City, ID (U48)

Airport Information

Airport:	Coxs Well (U48)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	26	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	2700 ft / 100 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Howard D Plagens	Adopted Date:	07/14/2009
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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